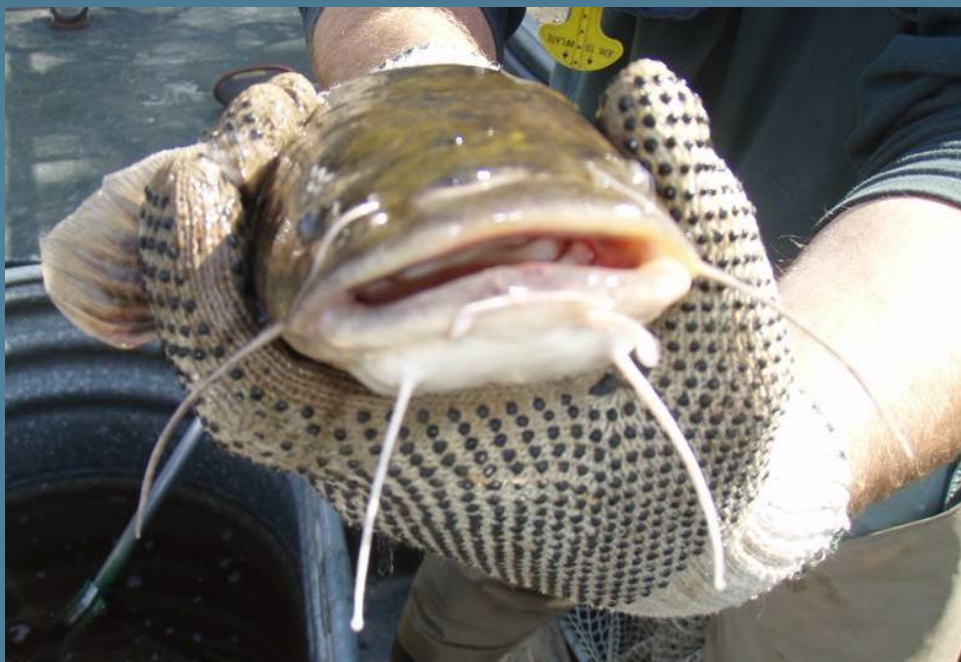


# The Mississippi River Fishery Pool 2 (Ford Dam to Hastings Dam)



Prepared by:

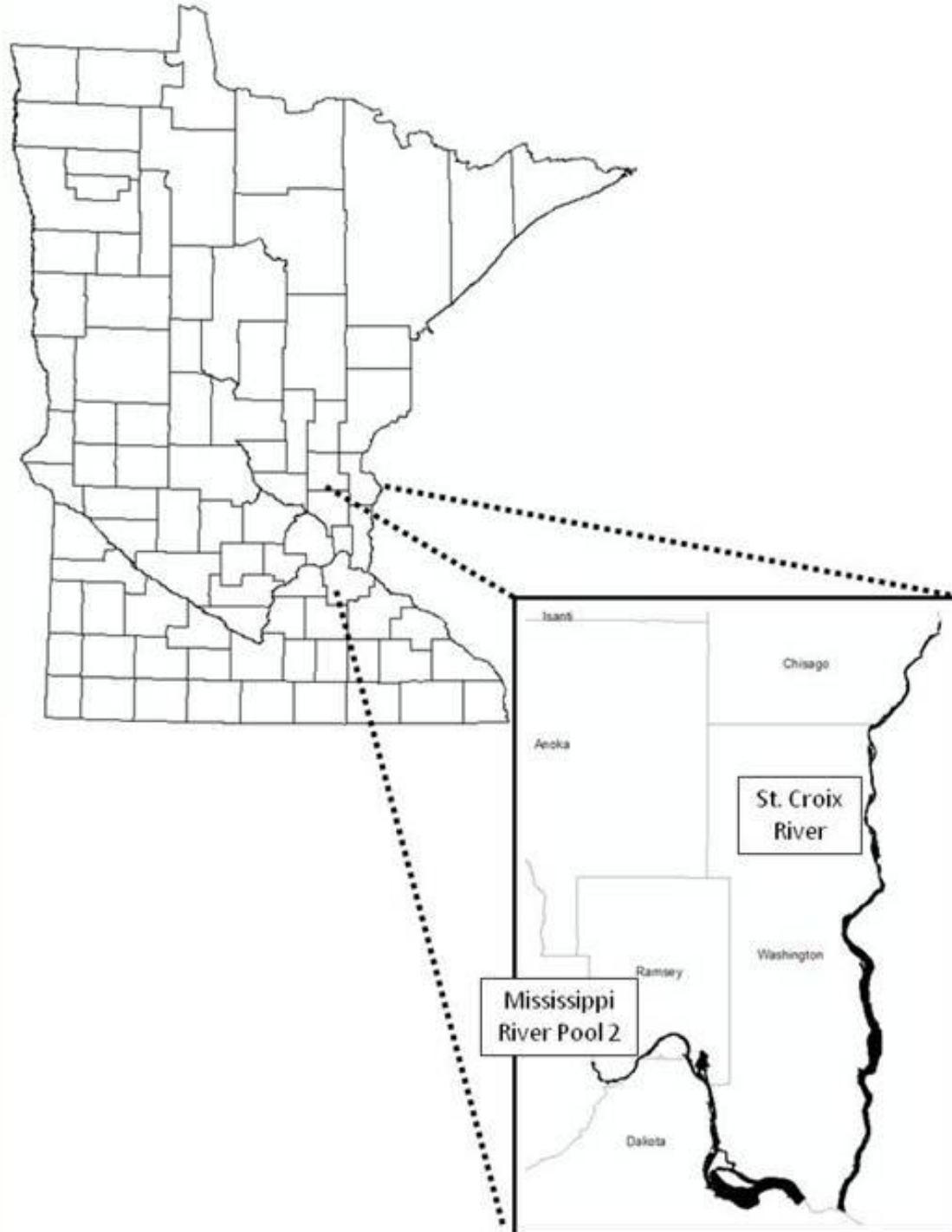
Joel Stiras

East Metro Area  
River Fisheries  
Specialist



May 7, 2010





# The Mississippi River Fishery

## Pool 2

- **Fish community** – 2008 Mississippi River Standard and Special Sampling
- **Sport Fishery** – Walleye, Sauger, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Smallmouth Bass, White Bass
- **Angler use** – 1996-1998 Creel Survey



# Fish Community

- The Mississippi River's primary purpose during the early 1900's was as a sewer
- Pool 2 was essentially a dead river as recently as the 60's, poor dissolved oxygen continued into the 70's
- Fishery recovered following improvements in waste water treatment



# Fish Community

- Possibly over 125 species present
- Original barrier to upstream movement was St. Anthony Falls
  - Locks and Dams have altered the river, allowing passage past the falls, up to Coon Rapids Dam



# Fish Community

- Three survey efforts in 2008 sampled 29 species and two hybrids
- Fish were sampled by electrofishing using new standardized methods and stations



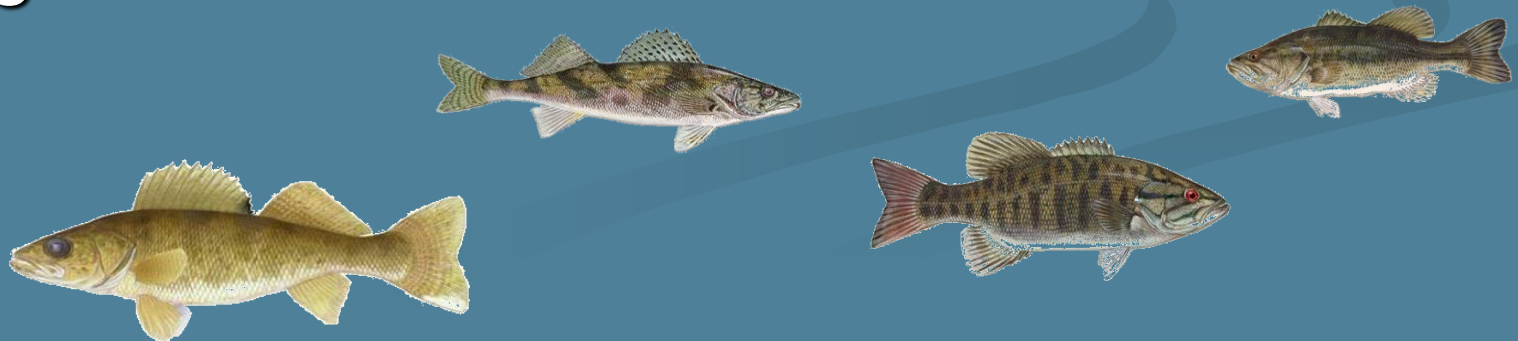


# Fish Community



# Sport Fishery

- Quality walleye and sauger fishery developed
- 1993 – Imposed year round catch and release fishing on Pool 2 for walleye, sauger, smallmouth bass, and largemouth bass



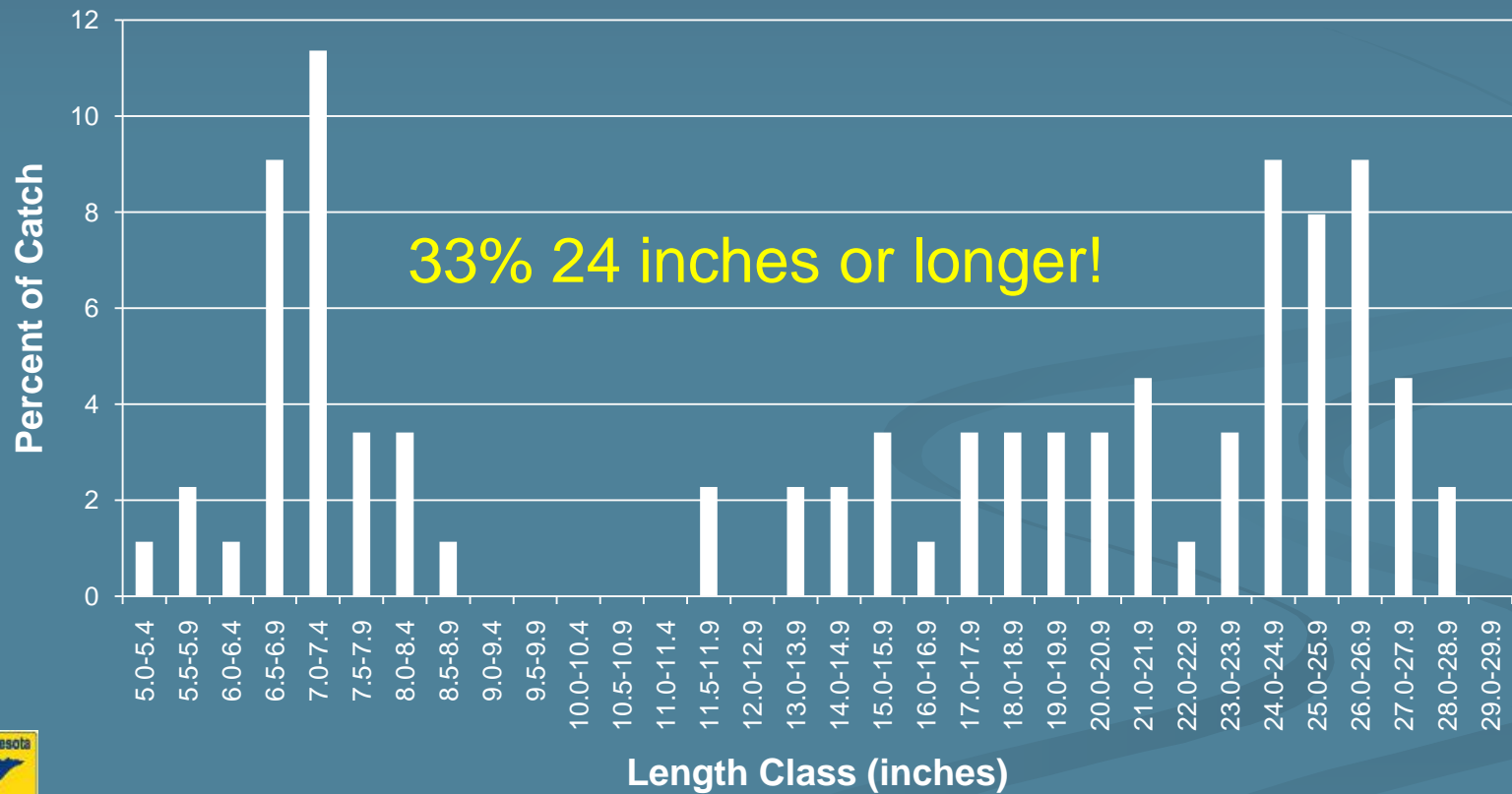




# Sport Fishery- Walleye



## Pool 2 Walleye Length-at-Capture 2008





# Sport Fishery- Catfish

- Catfishing a growing sport in Minnesota
- Special Metro Catfish Project started in 2009 to better assess catfish populations and catfish anglers

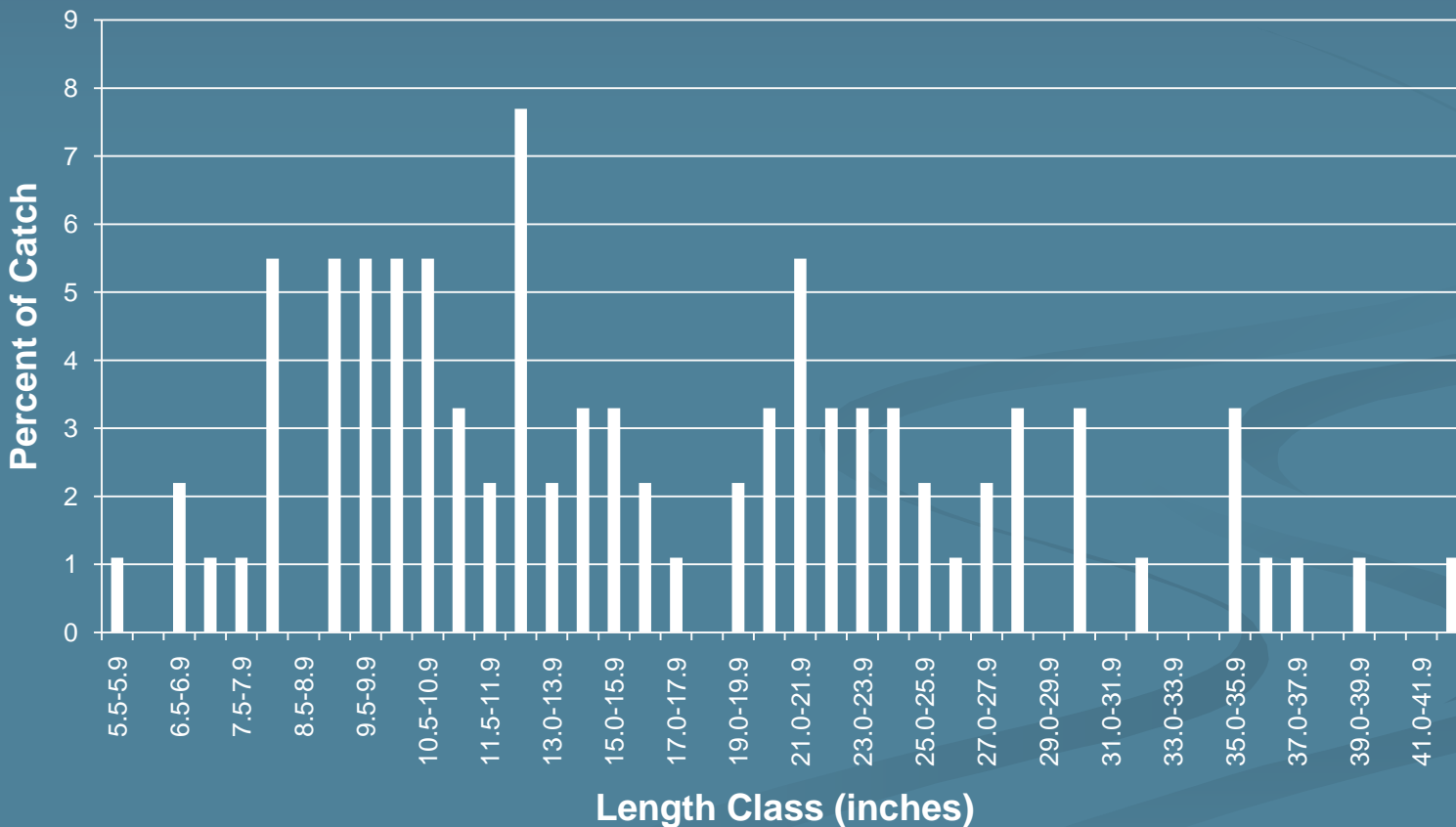




# Sport Fishery- Flathead Catfish



Pool 2 Flathead Catfish Length-at-Capture 2008





50 lbs and 24 years old



26.5 lbs and 24 years old



# Metro Catfish Project

- Tag all channel and flathead catfish 10 inches and longer
- Remove pectoral spine from sub-sample to determine age
- Estimate mortality from tagging, spine removal
- Record where fish released after tagging, record location where fish recaptured
- Clip a fin to estimate tag loss, save the fin for genetic analysis





# Metro Catfish Project



# Metro Catfish Project

- Online survey targeted at catfish anglers in the metro area ([www.surveymonkey.com/catfish](http://www.surveymonkey.com/catfish))
- Attempting to recruit catfish anglers to keep a fishing diary
- Over 200 surveys completed since last year





# April 1996-March 1998 Creel Survey

- Top species harvested during summers of 1996 and 1997

- Freshwater Drum



- Channel Catfish



- Crappie



- Common Carp



# PFOS Contaminant Testing

- Cooperation with PCA, MDH, 3M
- Collect 5 species across 4 sections of Pool 2
- 15 of each species for each section
  - Bluegill
  - Smallmouth Bass
  - Common Carp
  - White Bass
  - Freshwater Drum



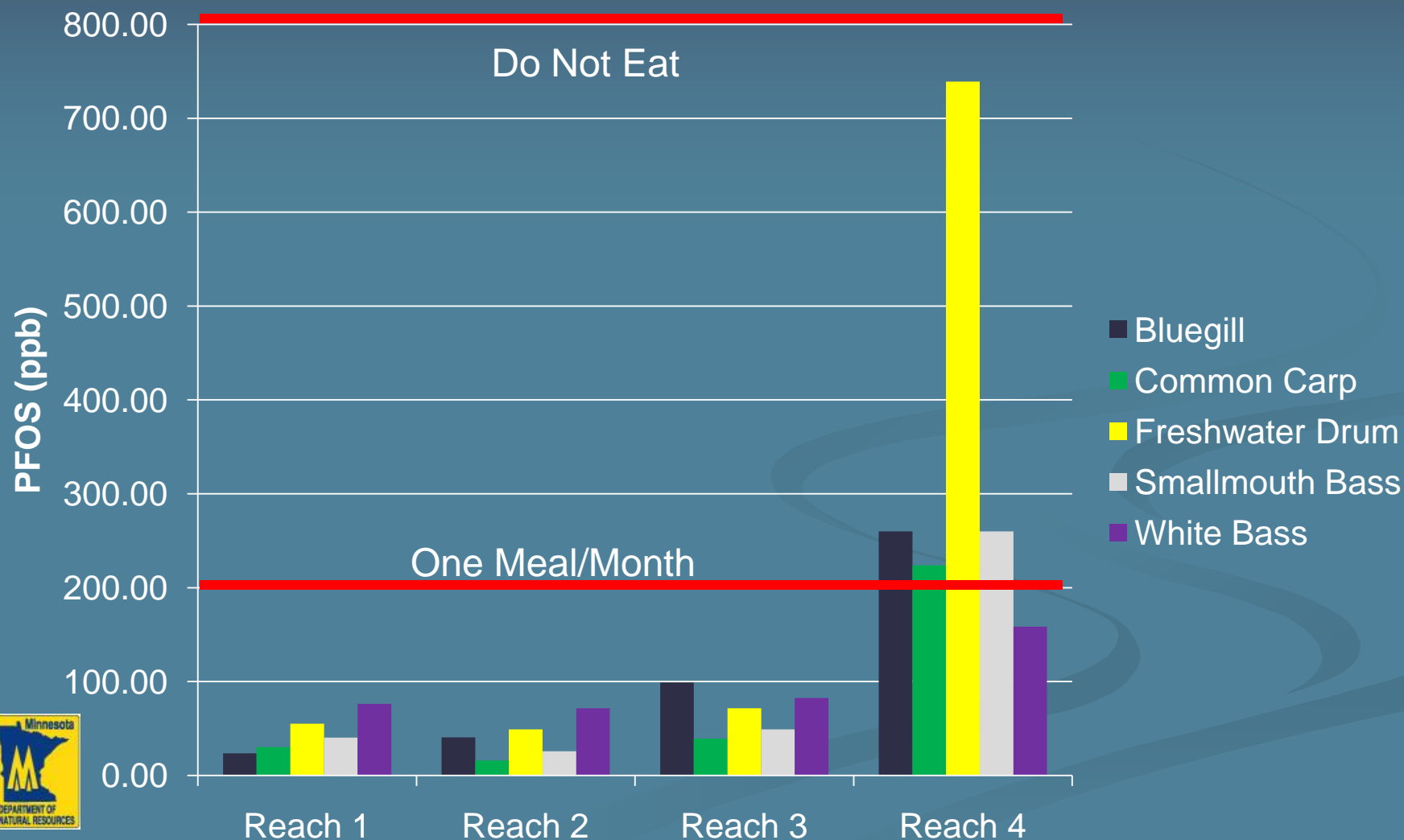
# PFOS Contaminant Testing

- Bluegill had been listed as 1 meal/month
  - Changed to 1 meal/week
- Freshwater Drum tested for PFOS for first time, added to advisory of 1 meal/month for general population



# PFOS Contaminant Testing

## Mean PFOS Concentration by Reach in Pool 2



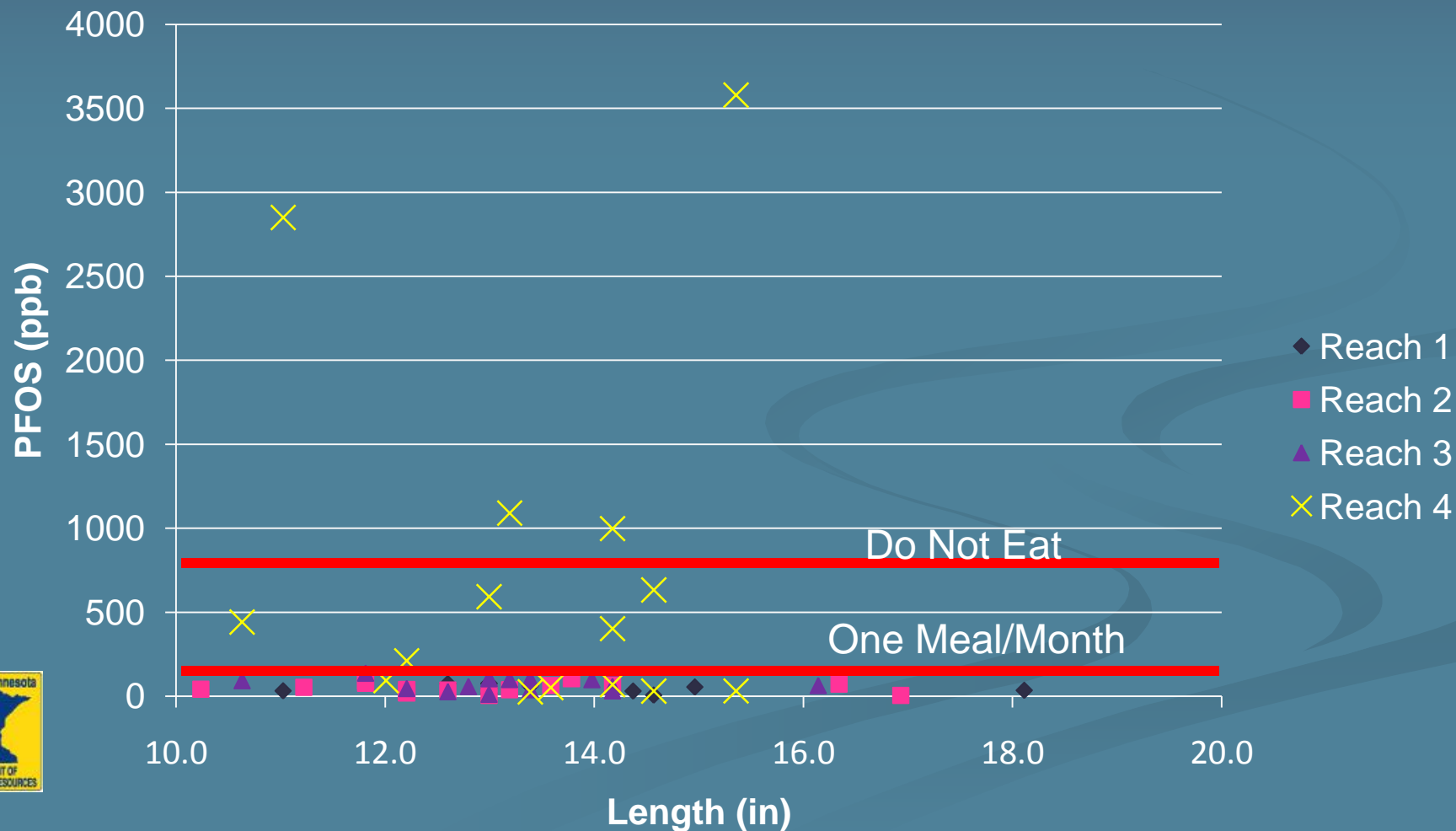




# PFOS Contaminant Testing



## Freshwater Drum Length vs PFOS Concentration

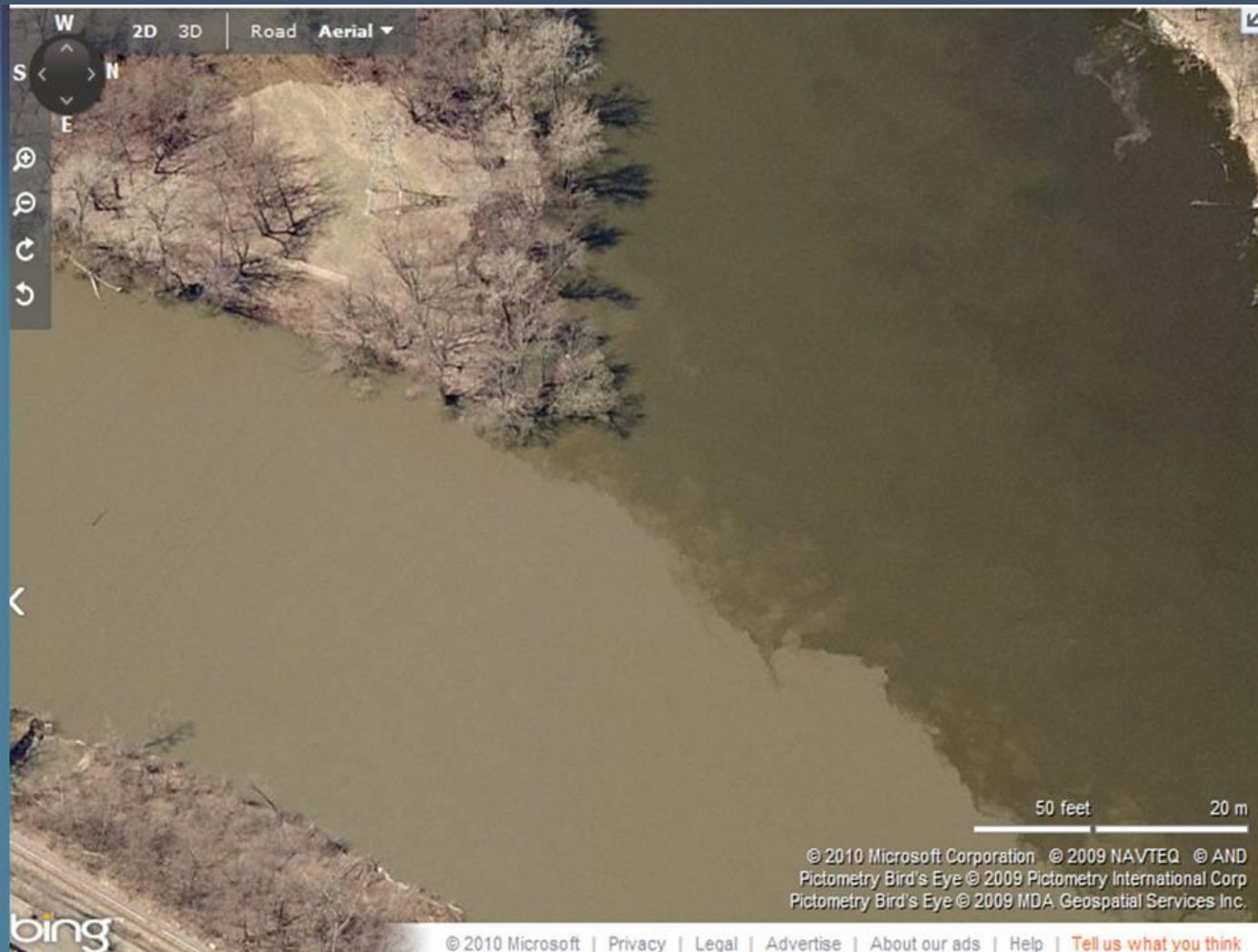


# Work Needed

- Continued monitoring of PFOS
- Better access
- Assess rare species like sturgeon and paddlefish
- Water quality still impaired



# Pink Elephant



# Summary

- Quality year round angling for walleye and sauger
- Quality summer angling for catfish and white bass
- Can still improve with decreased turbidity from the Minnesota River





# Questions?

Joel Stiras

Joel.Stiras@state.mn.us

651-259-5806

Catfish Angler Survey/Diary Program

[www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com)

